

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 26, 2006 has been received and their contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10, 13 and 16.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. (JP Patent No. 05006913) in view of ARA (Fig. 3 of Applicants' Related Art); rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. and ARA in view of Kitamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,139,639); rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. and ARA in view of Fujiwara et al. (U.S. Patent No., 5,905,559); and rejected claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ARA in view of Bouras et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,906,682).

The rejection of claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. in view of ARA is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...a control unit determining a line width of the seal pattern detected by the image camera, comparing the line width with a predetermined value and generating a control signal when a difference between the line width and the predetermined value exceeds a tolerance limit." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-5, and 9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. and ARA in view of Kitamura et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Because Kitamura et al. fails to cure the deficient teaching of Okamoto et al. and ARA as

discussed with respect to claim 1, claims 6-8, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto et al. and ARA in view of Fujiwara et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Because Fujiwara et al. fails to cure the deficient teaching of Okamoto et al. and ARA as discussed with respect to claim 1, claims 11-12, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ARA in view of Bouras et al. is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 14 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claim 14 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...detecting an image of the seal pattern by changing the relative position between the image camera and the substrate, wherein the image camera detects the seal pattern through the same moving path as that of the syringe..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 and claim 15, which depends from claim 14, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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